

In closing, I want to again commend the March-Westin Company, the St. James Catholic Church, and the Wheeling-Charleston Catholic Diocese for their commitment to workplace health and safety and ask my colleagues here in Congress to join me in recognizing their efforts.

**FREEDOM FOR JOSÉ ENRIQUE
SANTANA CARREIRA**

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 10, 2005

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about José Enrique Santana Carreira, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Santana Carreira is the national coordinator of the Democratic Party November 30 and a member of the pro-democracy opposition. Unfortunately, those who believe in truth are targeted by the tyrant's machinery of repression. According to an article for the Information Bridge Cuba Miami, on February 28, 2002, Mr. Santana Carreira was arrested for simply participating in a civic activity at the Catholic Church of the Passionists. More than 2 years later, in a sham trial, Mr. Santana Carreira was sentenced to 4 years in the totalitarian gulag.

In a letter to his mother that was translated and published at punteinfocubamiami.org, Mr. Santana Carreira describes the horrible conditions in the gulag to his mother:

For my mother:

With lots of love is that I write you this missive which I know is going to hurt you, but it is hurting me already, since they have beaten me and I could not get up . . . they have beaten me with no Humanity whatsoever. . . .

My dearest mother, I am resolved to take this until the maximum consequences if they already have beaten me, this will not stop, the only thing that I want is for all to know of the abuses that we are being subjected to and to receive the necessary support from all the people so that all these abuses end and all the World learns about the cruelties committed against those who fight peacefully with their reason and their right. . . .

Take care my viejita, I am very ill, suffering with all this, but I am willing to die for the reason that assists me in this our pacific fight.

I love you a lot. José Enrique Santana Carreiras

Mr. Santana Carreras represents the very best of the Cuban people: No matter how intense the beatings, no matter how remorseless the repression, no matter how inhumane the conditions, he will never relent in his belief that the men and women of Cuba should be and will be free.

Mr. Speaker, it is as inconceivable as it is unacceptable that, in the 21st century and only 90 miles from our shore, brave men and women are locked in grotesque dungeons because they believe that all people have basic human rights. It is a profound embarrassment for mankind that the world stands by in silence and acquiescence while political prisoners are systematically tortured because of their belief in freedom, democracy, human rights and the rule of law. My colleagues, we must demand the immediate and unconditional release of

José Enrique Santana Carreira and every political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

**CONGRATULATING CJ'S STUDIO OF
PERFORMING ARTS**

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 10, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ms. Darion Albert, Ms. Brittany Carey, Ms. Christian Hargers, Ms. Britannia Jones, and Ms. De'Ona Stafford of CJ's Studio of Performing Arts, located in my district, for their opportunity to dance in the Moscow Ballet's presentation of The Nutcracker in Dallas.

The Moscow Ballet is a classical ballet company that brings the grand tradition of a century of Russian ballet to audiences throughout the world, and it is considered a great honor to be part of the troop. Moscow Ballet's The Great Russian Nutcracker combines the family favorite with a special prayer for peace. Unlike many American adaptations, The Great Russian Nutcracker ends not in the "Land of the Sweets," but in the "Land of Peace and Harmony." The Russian Nutcracker has charmed us for more than a century because it takes its audience to a world of enchantment and peace where dreams are made real, language is no barrier, and it is always the season of love and giving.

The five young ladies of CJ's Studio of Dance were selected this year to perform in this timeless tradition and performance. Ms. Albert, Ms. Carey, Ms. Hargers, Ms. Jones, and Ms. Stafford have all attended CJ's for a number of years, under the direction of Ursula Gibbs. Ms. Gibbs serves as the studio's artistic director and dance instructor and is to be congratulated for her skillful dance instruction.

I extend my sincere congratulations to these young ladies for this distinguished opportunity. I wish them the best of luck in their dedicated pursuit of dance and the performing arts.

HONORING AMERICA'S VETERANS

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 10, 2005

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, every year on November 11, the American people honor the men and women who have served and sacrificed for our Nation as members of the armed forces. The sacrifices of our veterans and their families are the foundation of our Nation's freedom. All Americans owe them a debt of gratitude for their service.

Veterans Day is a national holiday for remembrance and appreciation. Whether a veteran served during WWII, Korea, Vietnam, the Gulf War, or have recently returned from Iraq and Afghanistan, they have earned our respect. As a member of Congress, I feel strongly about honoring our veterans and their families. With over 25 million veterans in America, Congress must keep its promise to those veterans who have served, as well as those who will be returning home from Iraq and Afghanistan. Providing the necessary

healthcare, education, and disability benefits to meet the needs of our veterans is both a responsibility and a moral obligation.

This Veterans Day, let us thank our family, friends and neighbors who have served our Nation in uniform. Their courage is to be celebrated. Their commitment to our Nation must be matched by a commitment from Congress to truly honor their service by guaranteeing the benefits they deserve.

**RESOLUTION OF INQUIRY, H. RES.
505 REQUESTING THE PRESIDENT
TRANSMIT TO THE HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES, DOCUMENTS
PERTAINING TO THE WHITE
HOUSE IRAQ GROUP**

HON. SHERROD BROWN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 10, 2005

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, earlier today the House International Relations Committee convened to consider an important resolution of inquiry, H. Res. 505.

The resolution would have required the President and Secretary of State to turn over to the House of Representatives all white papers, minutes, notes, e-mails or other communications relating to the White House Iraq Group (WHIG).

Unfortunately, the committee voted to report the resolution unfavorably, so we won't be getting those important documents.

It was also unfortunate that the committee called for a vote before all Democrats wishing to speak could be heard. Because the chairman acted in this manner, further debate was closed.

Due to this, I feel it necessary to have my statement from the International Relations Committee included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

I hope that in the future, when our committee meets on important legislation with serious international and national security implications, all members will be allowed to address their concerns vocally and publicly.

My statement for the committee record appears below.

Here we are again, asking for the answers to the same questions we've been asking for over two and a half years.

I commend my colleagues for introducing H. Res. 505, a resolution that would require the President and Secretary of State to turn over to the House of Representatives all white papers, minutes, notes, e-mails or other communications relating to the White House Iraq Group (WHIG).

It seems many of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have forgotten that Congress has an obligation to the American people to oversee the activities of the Executive Branch.

Because of that duty, we owe it to the American public to investigate the actions of the WHIG if we are to determine what the Bush Administration was peddling less than the actual truth of the Iraqi threat prior to going to war.

Over the past several years, Congress has continually failed to investigate the Administration's faulty intelligence claims with regard to Iraq.

Now we know that Andrew Card formed the WHIG in 2002, with the goal of marketing an

invasion of Iraq. The group included numerous senior administration officials, including Lewis "Scooter" Libby, Karl Rove and Condoleezza Rice.

It appears much of the administrations support for the Iraq invasion came from the WHIG, and it helped create materials for use by administration officials.

The materials were then used to make claims which it appears the members of the WHIG knew or had reason to know were questionable or false.

In the buildup to the war, these materials included but were not limited to possible erroneous claims that Iraq sought uranium from Niger; that Iraq's aluminum tubes could be used only for nuclear weapons purposes; and that Iraq was a training ground for Al Qaeda operatives.

Following these and similar claims, an aggressive media assault continued. In mid-September 2002, Condoleezza Rice stated that action on Iraq was necessary because, "We don't want the smoking gun to be a mushroom cloud."

Vice President Cheney also appeared that month on "Meet the Press" stating that Saddam Hussein was "actively and aggressively" working towards a nuclear bomb.

President Bush himself claimed during a 2002 major speech in Cincinnati: "We've learned that Iraq has trained al Qaeda members in bomb-making and deadly gases."

The American people deserve answers regarding the truth about information peddled by WHIG.

I urge my colleagues to do no more than their Congressional service demands—we must investigate possible wrongdoing by the Executive Branch.

If you do not fear the truth, you will vote to report this resolution favorably.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 10, 2005

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I was detained the afternoon of November 9, 2005. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner:

Rollcall 581 (On Passage—H.R. 2862)—"aye"; rollcall 582 (On Passage—S. 1894)—"aye"; rollcall 583 (On Agreeing to the Scott #9 Amendment)—"nay"; rollcall 584 (On Motion to Recommit with Instructions—H.R. 1751)—"nay"; and rollcall 585 (On Passage—H.R. 1751)—"aye."

REMARKS REGARDING VETERANS DAY

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 10, 2005

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is because of the great sacrifices of the men and women in our armed forces that we are able to live in freedom. We are committed and indebted to America's veterans who have risked their lives to protect liberty and defend freedom both here in the United States and abroad. Today, I take the opportunity to recognize the sacrifices our veterans have made serving our country and I extend to them my deep felt admiration.

On this Veterans Day, we must not just recognize the war heroes among us with our words, rather we must recognize them with our deeds. Members of our armed forces serve our Nation with distinction and we must honor them with more than just our gratitude. We must honor them by providing them with the most basic benefits, access to health care, education, job training, and full receipt of the disability compensation to which they are entitled. Tragically, we are failing our Nation's veterans.

It is our duty to provide men and women returning from service with the resources to seamlessly resume their lives as civilians. This means providing them with exceptional educational opportunities, job training and health care.

We must abolish the Disabled Veterans Tax, a tax that forces disabled military retirees to give up one dollar of their pension for every dollar of disability pay they receive. Abolishing this tax is critical to the nearly 400,000 military retirees who continue to pay it. We should work together in the U.S. House of Representatives to increase the benefits veterans receive and to make them mandatory.

Our soldiers and veterans have made the ultimate sacrifice by placing themselves in harm's way to protect democracy in our country and around the world. I am grateful to these brave men and women for the sacrifices they have made, the patriotism they have demonstrated, and the courage and love they have displayed for our country. Let us all take a moment to reflect and to thank our Nation's soldiers who have served and those who are still serving to protect liberty and justice for us all.

KID SAFE CHEMICALS ACT OF 2005

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 10, 2005

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, today, I am pleased to introduce the "Child, Worker and Consumer-Safe Chemicals Act of 2005," also known as the "Kid Safe Chemicals Act." I am particularly pleased that Representatives SOLIS, SLAUGHTER, and PALLONE are joining me in this effort to create a non-toxic environment to protect the health of children, workers and others.

The legislation we introduce today is companion legislation to an important bill that was introduced in the U.S. Senate earlier this year. Senators LAUTENBERG and JEFFORDS introduced S. 1391 with Senators BOXER, CLINTON, CORZINE, KENNEDY and KERRY to address the major problem of inadequate chemical regulation in this country.

The United States' current regulatory approach to chemicals is in dire need of being modernized. As Congress begins to take up this issue, the European Union is starting to resolve a multi-year process to achieve the same goal and is developing what may become the state-of-the-art approach to chemicals regulation. While this issue is proceeding overseas, we cannot sit upon our hands here in the United States. It's clear that our system must be modernized, and I have no doubt that it will be modernized. Our goal is that Congress begin this process sooner rather than later.

The Kid Safe Chemicals Act responds to the growing body of scientific literature which identifies chemical exposures as a factor in the rise of disorders and diseases such as birth defects, asthma, neurological and developmental disorders, infertility and certain types of cancer.

Study after study reveals alarming evidence of our exposure to industrial chemicals and pollutants. Bio-monitoring studies report the presence of hundreds of synthetic chemicals in our bodies—even in the bodies of infants and fetuses. These chemicals are not household names: bisphenol A, brominated flame retardants, phthalates, and perfluoro compounds. Yet we are exposed every day—on the job, through our food and water, and in our homes. Computers, cosmetics, even children's toys can contribute to our collective "body burden" of chemical contamination.

Tens of thousands of chemicals have never been properly assessed for their potential health and environmental risks. The problem can be traced to the 1976 federal law that was meant to empower the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to take action on such threats. The Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) has been in place for 29 years, but has failed to protect Americans from dangerous chemicals.

A July 2005 report by the Government Accountability Office documented the abysmal results of this federal policy. Of the 62,000 chemicals on the market when the law took effect, the EPA has used its authority under the Toxic Substances Control Act to evaluate less than two hundred, and invoked its power to regulate just five groups of chemicals.

This system is badly broken.

The Kid Safe Chemicals Act will reform our failed approach to chemical regulation and put us on track to reassert U.S. leadership. This legislation will protect kids by recognizing their special vulnerabilities and requiring manufacturers to provide health and safety information prior to distributing a chemical in consumer products. This will end the false presumption that we have relied upon for too long—that a substance is safe until proven dangerous.

This legislation is endorsed by the American Public Health Association, the Natural Resources Defense Council, and over a dozen pediatricians, other physicians and researchers from the National Centers for Children's Environmental Health. This legislation is a strong starting point in a debate our country needs to have. I am proud to introduce Senator LAUTENBERG's legislation in the House and look forward to working with colleagues in both chambers to act upon it as soon as possible.

GYNECOLOGICAL RESOLUTION FOR ADVANCEMENT OF OVARIAN CANCER EDUCATION

SPEECH OF

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 7, 2005

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, when the House considered H. Res. 444, a Gynecological Resolution for Advancement of Ovarian Cancer Education, I was unavoidably detained in my Chicago district. I would like to take this